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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

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02/19/2004

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 1001 G STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597 EXAMINER

DOUGLAS, STEVEN O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3751

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2004

-	APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
	10/677,531	10/03/2003	Takeshi Sato	000407.00043	2306

TITLE OF INVENTION: CUP-TYPE BEVERAGE VENDING MACHINE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1330	\$300	\$1630	05/19/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.
- □ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- II. PART B FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.
- III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

or Fax (703) 746-4000

APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 10/677,521 i 0/03/2603 Takeshī Sato 000407,00043 2306 TITLE OF INVENTION: CUP-TYPE BEVERAGE VENDING MACHINE APPLN. TYPE SMALL ENTITY ISSUE FEE PUBLICATION FEE TOTAL FEE(S) DUE DATE DUE nonprovisional NO \$1330 \$300 \$1630 05/19/2004 EXAMINER ART UNIT CLASS-SUBCLASS DOUGLAS, STEVEN O 3751 141-174000 1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CR 1.503). a registered patent attorneys or agents of more recens indication of "Fee Address" indication from PYO.58147, Key 03-42 or more recens of stached. Use of a Customer Number is required. 3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE FRINTED ON THE FATENT (print or type) PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent, inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE Absolute Fee Proper or the patent, inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment over the patent, inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment over the patent, inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment over. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment over the patent, inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment over. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment over. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment over the patent, inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment over the patent, inclusion of the fee(s) is enclosed. By Absolute Propriet Complete on the patent, inclusion of the fee(s) is enclosed. By Absolute Propriet Complete on the patent, inclusion of the fee(s) is enclosed. By Absolute Propriet Complete on the patent, inclusion of the fee(s) is enclosed. By Absolu	INSTRUCTIONS: This for appropriate. All further cor indicated unless corrected I maintenance fee notification	rm should be used for tran- respondence including the l below or directed otherwise is.	smitting the ISSUE I Patent, advance orders in Block I, by (a) sp	FEE and PUBLIC s and notification pecifying a new o	CATION FEE (if required of maintenance fees we correspondence address;	ired). Blocks 1 through 4 still be mailed to the current and/or (b) indicating a sep	should be completed where correspondence address as arate "FEE ADDRESS" for
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PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment. (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent); Individual Indivi	CFR 1.363). Change of correspond Address form PTO/SB/1: "Fee Address" indicati PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 Number is required.	ence address (or Change of C 22) attached. ion (or "Fee Address" Indicator more recent) attached. Use	Correspondence tion form e of a Customer	names of up to agents OR, alten firm (having as agent) and the n attorneys or ager will be printed.	3 registered patent a natively, (2) the name a member a registered ames of up to 2 regist tts. If no name is lister	ttorneys or 1	
□ Issue Fee □ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed. □ Publication Fee □ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. □ Advance Order - # of Copies □ □ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment Deposit Account Number □ (enclose an extra copy of this form). Director for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. (Authorized Signature) (Date) NOTE; The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is confidentiality is confidentiality is confidentiality is confidentiality in confidentiality is confidentiality.	PLEASE NOTE: Unless been previously submitte (A) NAME OF ASSIGN	an assignee is identified be d to the USPTO or is being s EE	low, no assignee data submitted under separa (B) R	will appear on thate cover. Completes (CI'	e patent. Inclusion of a etion of this form is NO' FY and STATE OR CO	UNTRY)	
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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE		FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.			
10/677,531 10/03/2003		10/03/2003	Takeshi Sato	000407.00043	2306			
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WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER				
				3751				
				DATE MAILED: 02/19/200	4			

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

1.6/

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/677,531	SATO ET AL.
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit
	Steven O. Douglas	3751
The MAILING DATE of this communication ap All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS I herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-8 NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.3	S (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in 5) or other appropriate commu RIGHTS. This application is so	this application. If not included nication will be mailed in due course. THIS
1. X This communication is responsive to papers filed 10-3-0.	<u>3</u> .	
2. \boxtimes The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>9-16</u> .		
3. 🖾 The drawings filed on <u>03 October 2003</u> are accepted by	the Examiner.	
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents hat 2. Certified copies of the priority documents hat 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority of International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDON. 	ive been received. Ive been received in Application documents have been received E" of this communication to file	n No. <u>09/901,562</u> . I in this national stage application from the
 THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be sub INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which g 		
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") m (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftspe 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examine Paper No./Mail Date Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in	erson's Patent Drawing Review er's Amendment / Comment or 1.84(c)) should be written on th	in the Office action of e drawings in the front (not the back) of
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the department attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMEN	OOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATE IT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIO	RIAL must be submitted. Note the pLOGICAL MATERIAL.
 Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SE Paper No./Mail Date 10032003) 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposi of Biological Material 	B) 6. ☐ Interview Su Paper No./I B/08), 7. ☐ Examiner's	
		Steven O. Douglas Primary Examiner Art Unit: 3751

Application/Control Number: 10/677,531

Art Unit: 3751

Page 2

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Slass, Murphey, Ciekanski and Tsumura et al. reference pertain to beverage vending systems with associated cup supports.

Claims 9-16 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven O. Douglas whose telephone number is 703-308-0891. The examiner can normally be reached on Wed-Fri 6:30-7:00.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197/toll-free

Steven O. Douglas
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3751

SD 2-18-04